What is claimed is:

1. A surgical article for associating with a sling assembly comprising a sling having first and second end portions and a mid portion, a first insertion sheath substantially enclosing the first end portion of the sling, a second insertion sheath substantially enclosing the second end portion of the sling, the first and second insertion sheaths having ends that are spaced apart so that the mid portion of the sling is free of any insertion sheath, the surgical article comprising:

a first jaw,

a second jaw,

the first and second jaws being movable between an open position to receiving the sling assembly therebetween, and a closed position for associating the surgical article with the sling assembly; and

wherein the first jaw has a predetermined size and shape for assisting a surgeon in implanting a sling with appropriate tension.

2. An article according to claim 1 wherein the first jaw has a width and the width is greater than the space between the ends of the first and second insertion sheaths.

3. An article according to claim 1 wherein the first and second jaws are arcuate shaped.

4. An article according to claim 1 wherein the first jaw has a depth of between about 0.5 mm and about 10 cm.

5. An article according to claim 1 wherein the first and second jaws have sling assembly engagement surfaces.

6. An article according to claim 5 wherein the sling assembly engagement surfaces are adapted to engage the first and second insertion sheaths of the sling assembly.

7. An article according to claim 5 wherein the sling assembly engagement surfaces are adapted to engage the mid portion of the sling without engaging any portion of the first and second insertion sheaths so that the insertion sheaths may be removed without removing the surgical article.

8. An article according to claim 1 wherein the surgical article is sized and shaped to substantially enclose the mid-portion of the sling.

9. An article according to claim 1 further including biasing means for biasing the first and second jaws toward the closed position.

10. An article according to claim 1 further including manually engageable handles, operatively associated with the first and second jaws, for manually moving the jaws from the closed position toward the open position.

11. An article according to claim 1 wherein the first or second jaw includes a slot.

12. An article according to claim 1 wherein the first and second jaws include appendages projecting therefrom to hold portions of the sling assembly in a predetermined orientation.

13. An article according to claim 12 wherein the appendages are flexible so that they can deflect.

14. An article according to claim 1 wherein the first and second jaws include appendages projecting therefrom to hold a portion of the sling in a predetermined orientation.

15. An article according to claim 1 wherein the first and second jaws include appendages projecting therefrom, and

a thin material situated between the appendages projecting from a jaw.

16. An article according to claim 15 wherein jaws, appendages and thin materials are adapted to substantially engage the mid-portion of the sling.

17. An article according to claim 1 wherein the jaws are shaped to approximate the intended shape of the mid portion of the sling after implantation via a transobturator surgical approach.

18. An article according to claim 1 wherein the jaws are shaped to approximate the intended shape of the mid portion of the sling after implantation via a suprapubic surgical approach.

19. In combination, a sling assembly comprising a sling having first and second end portions and a mid portion, a first insertion sheath substantially enclosing the first end portion of the sling, a second insertion sheath substantially enclosing the second end portion of the sling, the first and second insertion sheaths having ends that are spaced apart so that the mid portion of the sling is free of any insertion sheath,

a surgical article comprising a first jaw, a second jaw, the first and second jaws being movable between an open position to receiving the sling assembly therebetween, and a closed position for associating the surgical article with the sling assembly; and

wherein the first jaw has a predetermined size and shape for assisting a surgeon in implanting a sling with appropriate tension.

20. A combination according to claim 19 wherein the sling comprises a polypropylene material and the insertion sheaths comprise a polyethylene material.

21. A method of treating a patient's urological disorder comprising the steps of

inserting a sling assembly comprising a sling with a mid-portion, the sling having insertion sheaths enclosing end portions thereof, the insertion sheaths having ends proximate the mid-portion of the sling that are spaced apart, and a spacer article associated with the sling assembly;

verifying that the spacer article is in at least close proximity to the patient's urethra;

removing the spacer article; and

removing the insertion sheaths.

22. A method according to claim 21 wherein the step of removing the spacer occurs before the step of removing the insertion sheaths.

23. A method according to claim 21 wherein the step of inserting the sling assembly includes the step of making a vaginal incision, and

the step of removing the spacer article includes the step of removing the spacer article through the vaginal incision.

24. A method according to claim 21 wherein the step of inserting the sling assembly includes the step of using a transobturator surgical approach.

25. A method according to claim 21 wherein the step of inserting the sling assembly includes the step of using a suprapubic surgical approach.

26. A method according to claim 21 the step of removing the insertion sheaths occurs before the step of removing the spacer.